



Recognising Our Extraordinary Citizens: 2022 Citizen of the Year Award Winners

The City of Victor Harbor is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Citizen of the Year Awards:

- **Citizen of the Year – Peter Lewis**
In recognition of lasting contributions to community groups, local fundraising, tourism promotion and community leadership
- **Award for Active Citizenship – Stephen Hedges**
In recognition of ongoing commitment to environmental education and conservation advisory
- **Young Citizen of the Year – Neriah Milis**
In recognition of active involvement in local sporting clubs and community groups
- **Community Event of the Year – Live Arts at Newland**
In recognition of its contribution to community wellbeing and celebration of arts

At the core of a great place is great people, and the City of Victor Harbor has many generous and compassionate residents who commit their time towards supporting the community around them.

The 2022 Citizen of the Year Awards provide an opportunity to formally recognise the important and valuable work that these extraordinary people do for our community.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the 2022 Citizen of the Year award winners were selected from a pool of high calibre nominees.

“This is an extremely exciting time every year, as it’s an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary contributions of both individuals and groups in our region,” said Mayor Jenkins.

“Our passionate community members and diverse community groups go above and beyond to make Victor Harbor even better, and we are fortunate to have so many generous volunteers who share their time and knowledge as active citizens.”

“This year’s winners have all been influential in Victor Harbor in different ways, yet they all share a great amount of community spirit.”

The 2022 Citizen of the Year Awards will be formally presented at the City of Victor Harbor’s Australia Day Celebrations on 26 January 2022.

The festivities will take place at the Horse Tram Barn (Railway Terrace, Victor Harbor) with a free BBQ breakfast from 8am, followed by a formal ceremony and live music entertainment from 9am.

Visit www.victor.sa.gov.au/australiaday for more information about this event.

About the City of Victor Harbor's 2022 Citizen of the Year Award Winners

2022 Citizen of the Year – Peter Lewis

In recognition of lasting contributions to community groups, local fundraising, tourism promotion and community leadership

Peter Lewis has been an active member of the Lion's Club, the Fleurieu Community Foundation, the Hospital Advisory Council, and the Horse Drawn Tram Committee, and was a previous Elected Member for the City of Victor Harbor. Peter has contributed to a range of projects and initiatives that benefit the Victor Harbor community. In recent years, Peter has coordinated and supported significant fundraising efforts for homelessness, the Kangaroo Island bushfires, and the South Coast District Hospital. In his spare time, he knits blankets which are donated to people in need. Peter has been heavily involved in the development of the new Victor Harbor Trotting Club Complex and is a passionate promoter of Victor Harbor as a tourist destination to interstate and international audiences, resulting in many visitors to the Fleurieu Peninsula region. Peter was also presented with the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual' Award in 2000 by Fleurieu Tourism.

2022 Award for Active Citizenship – Stephen Hedges

In recognition of ongoing commitment to environmental education and conservation advisory

Stephen Hedges has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the conservation of Victor Harbor's natural environment and is actively involved in educating the community about biodiversity. Stephen was instrumental in establishing a volunteer group to monitor the Granite Island Little Penguin population in conjunction with Flinders University, was the Founding Member of the Save Granite Island Penguins Committee, and has recently been an invaluable resource for the Granite Island Causeway project team by providing expert advice on mitigating the risk of disturbance to the little penguins. He is also a longtime member of the Friends of Granite Island and Trees for Life, and has been involved with the South Australian Whale Centre in Victor Harbor for many years. His knowledge on terrestrial and aquatic landscapes has been passionately shared with local Rotary Clubs, Lions Club, Nursing Homes, and students of all ages. Additionally, he is a life member and supporter of the Back Valley Tennis Club.

2022 Young Citizen of the Year – Neriah Milis

In recognition of active involvement in local sporting clubs and school activities

Neriah has demonstrated active citizenship and enhancement of community life through her involvement in many sporting clubs and school activities. Neriah has represented South Australia in hurdles, was in her school's open girls football and volleyball teams, is a motivational player at the South Adelaide Football club, and has represented the Port Elliot Surf Lifesaving club in tournaments in Perth (winning medals for Rescue and Resuscitation). Neriah has shared her passion for sport by captaining an under 17s football team for three years, coaching junior kids in athletics, assisting with the Victor Harbor Primary School athletics days for the past four years, and teaching dance to five year olds and under. Neriah's community spirit was also recently demonstrated in her involvement with a student led health program, which brought together external services such as Shine SA, The Sammy D Foundation, local GP Dr Kate Drinkwater, and Endometriosis Australia to provide concurrent male and female sessions on health. Neriah also represented her school at the Women's Leadership in Politics Conference at Chiton Rocks Surf Life Saving Club.

2022 Community Event of the Year – Live Arts at Newland

In recognition of its contribution to community wellbeing and celebration of arts

The first Live Arts at Newland concert was held on 15 November 2020 and has recurred each month since, drawing patrons from across the Fleurieu Peninsula and beyond. The concerts successfully bring together a diverse range of musical performances to nurture community wellbeing and mindfulness. The convenience of regular concerts in one of Victor Harbor's iconic buildings has been appreciated by patrons, especially by those who have been reluctant to venture far during the pandemic. Feedback received from audience members highlights the concerts as being an asset to the local community and makes excellent use of the crescent shaped acoustic performance space available at Newland.